

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION AGAINST FRAUD, CORRUPTION, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND DOUBLE FINANCING

Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of February 12, 2021, which establishes the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, obliges States members, in their capacity as beneficiaries or borrowers of funds under the Mechanism, to take all appropriate measures to protect the financial interests of the Union and to ensure that the use of funds in relation to measures financed by the mechanism is in accordance with applicable Union and national law, in particular as regards to the prevention, detection and correction of fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests.

Article 6.1 of Order HFP/1030/2021, of September 29, by on management system of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, establishes that any entity, decision-maker or executor, that participates in the execution of the measures must have an "Anti-fraud measures plan" that allows it to guarantee and declare that, in their respective scope of action, the corresponding funds have been used in accordance with applicable regulations, in particular, with regard to prevention, detection and correction of fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest.

The National Centre for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC) wants to express its commitment with the highest standards in compliance with legal regulations and ethical postulates and its adherence to the strictest principles of legality, integrity, objectivity and honesty, so that its activity is perceived by all the agents that relate to the centre as opposed to fraud and corruption in any of their forms.

CNIC personnel, in their capacity as public employees, assume and shares this commitment having, among other duties, those of "guarding the interests general, subject to and observance of the Constitution and the rest of the legal system, and act in accordance with the principles of the CNIC Code of Ethics with objectivity, integrity, neutrality, responsibility, impartiality, confidentiality, dedication to public service, transparency, exemplarity, austerity, accessibility, effectiveness, honesty, promotion of cultural and environmental environment, respect for equality between women and men and prohibition of all discrimination.

The CNIC has taken as a basis the Anti-Fraud Measures Plan of the Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII) and has made an adaptation of said plan to implement effective measures to combat fraud, corruption, and conflicts of interest and to avoid double financing. This is a proactive, structured and specific approach to fight effectively against fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest and double financing.

The purpose of the plan is to offer guarantees that the expenditure incurred in actions of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan is free of conflict of interest, fraud and corruption and that there is no double financing. The plan has been started from the evaluation of said risks. Additionally, it is counted in all departments of the general management area and science management area, with procedures to prevent, detect and report situations that could constitute fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest or double financing and for monitoring them.

The policy also aims at promoting within the organization a culture that discourages all fraudulent activity and that facilitates its prevention and detection, endorsing the development of effective procedures for the management of these assumptions.

In short, the CNIC assumes and structures a policy of zero tolerance against fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest and double financing and has established a system of adequate control, specially designed to prevent and detect, to the extent possible, the acts that incur in said assumptions and correct their impact, if they occur.

All people who have a relationship with the centre, whether an employment relationship or of any other nature, must communicate, through the internal information system available on the CNIC website, any irregularity of which they were aware that could pose a risk or damage in relation to the fraud situations mentioned. This channel guarantees the indemnity of the complainant and his anonymity in the event that it is required and complies with Law 2/2023, of February 20, on the protection of people who report regulatory violations and the fight against corruption, which has its antecedent in Directive (EU) 2019/1937, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 23 October 2019, regarding the protection of people who report violations of the Union Law.

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